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No POST from HEAVEN,
Nor yet from HELL:

But a true Relation, and Animadversions,
written, and sent as an Antidote, to all.

Unbelieving *Brownists*,
Prophane *Anabaptists*,
Schismaticall *Monsters*,
And such like Incendiaries
of the STATE.

Proving by Histories, Records, and Examples,
That his Majesties Taxations have not been unusuall,
nor his Government Tyrannicall, though falsely
so imputed, invented, divulged and
scattered abroad.

Collected by Sir ROBERT COTTON.

And now put to presse, and Dedicated to
His Sacred MAJESTIE: By G. A. Gent.

9 may

Printed at OXFORD, 1643.

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TO THE
High and Mightie Monarch
CHARLES,
King of great Brittain, France,
& Ireland, Defend. of the Faith, &c.

Wishing a glorious Conquest on Earth,
and a triumphant Victory in Heav'n.

Great SIR,

APPLES having drawn an exquisite picture,
ambition tickling Fancy, set it to the view of
Censure, and covertly concealed himself; Time,
brought to light an Artist, more curious than A-
cute, he sees, dislikes, Appelles mends, and puts
to the view againe; in short time after, he returnes, reviews,
and still dislikes; Appelles marking his transcendency, and find-
ing his imbecillity, dislodges himself and suddainly lets slip this
bitter Curbe, Sutor ne ultra crepidam.

So, if I, Oh King, like to this unskilfull Artist, have presu-
med, Icarus-like to soare above my pitch, and Phaeton-like to
mount the Chariot of the Golden Sun; Let it, I beseech you, be im-
puted to Error Amoris, which I am always bound to offer, and

THE EPISTLE.

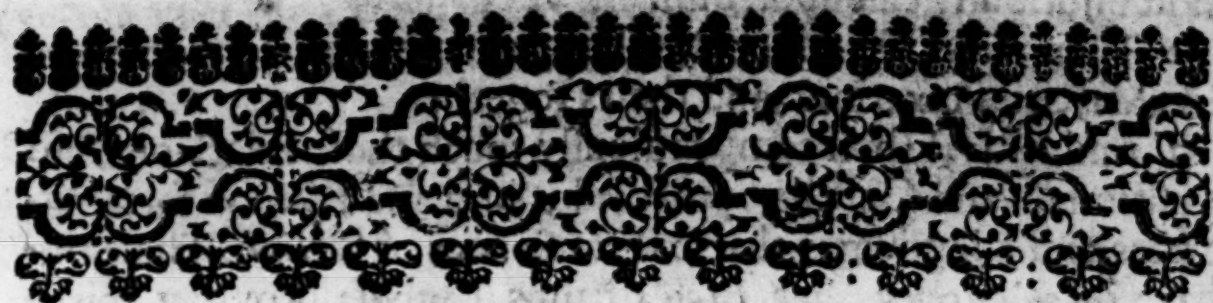
not to Amor Erroris, which I may not, I must not, nay, I dare not proffer.

Be pleased then, to cast your Princely eye, upon this undigested lump of Virgins waxe, and do but grace it with one Royal smile, and then you Arme, and make him able to incounter with that triple headed Monster, base ingratitude, (at this present your Majesties greatest and heaviest enemy) but, could it infuse into me the strength of Sampson, I would tie those Foxes tyles together, (that go about to disturbe your Peace) and drive them into a Desert, where they should never returne againe, either to destroy your Corne, or hurt your Pasture; but, Ob my good wishes, fall short of my true hearts intention: howsoever this vigor it will adde unto me, that I shall neither expect the hopes of any, nor fear the votes of many; but merrily chant this Miscellany; Nec habeo, nec careo, nec curo: And so upon the bended knees of my heart, praying for your Majesties long and happy Raigne over us, I humbly kisse your Royall hand:

Your Majesties poore, and unfortunate, yet most true, and loyall Subject,

G. A.

N. O.



NO POST FROM HEAVEN,

Nor yet from Hell: But a true Relation
and Animadversion, written and sent, as an
Antidote, to all unbelieving Brownists, Prophane,
Anabaptists, Schismaticall Monsters, and
such like Incendiaries of the State, &c.

SO search for forraigne Stories, or to trace into the
foot-steps of Royall and regall governments, of
remote and farre Countries and Kingdomes, for
proofes to make good my Assertions, unlesse, I can
by some of our own domestique, and authentique
records and examples make them first appeare,
were but *Nodum in scirpo querere*, and would rather savour of too
much curiosity, than give any true relish unto verity.

My first intention therefore was to have both fully and at large
set down all the exactions, impositions, taxes, and loanes, that
have been, either by prerogative, power, or generall grant, ex-
acted, leavyed, taken, and set upon this State, from William the
Conquerors time to King James; But having sithence, propoun-
ded to my self brevity, and to shunne prolixity, I will therefore
only with as light a hand, and in as short a way as possibly I can,
summarily draw up those, which do most concerne and conduce
to this present discourse, and cursorily runne over the residue,
that so the curious, and the carping may perceive, and the judici-
ous and religious judge, that His Majesty hath not so far trans-
cended

scended his bounds of government, as is most scandalously, and most injuriously cast upon him.

2 Then will I, in a short Method, and very briefly compare His Majesties taxations, and theirs together.

3 And lastly, I shall compendiously touch those Exactions, Impositions, and Gabells, practised, used and taken in forraigne States, and Kingdomes, that so these Sonnes of *Belial*, Those that have *Jacob's* voyce, but *Esau's* hands, whose broyling spirits doe nothing but fling fire-brands, and heap on wood, to set Kingdomes in combustion; those that are a nursery of warre, a Seminary of Schisme, whose very thoughts are barbarous, and their actions bloody, the children of darknesse, and the very spawne and off-spring of cursed *Cham*, may see their nakednesse, confesse their Errour, flye for covert, crave for mercy, and pray for repentance.

William the Conqueror.

ANd first to begin with *William* the Conquerour, who in the entrance of his Government, tooke of every Hide-land twelve pence, as due from the Subject to their Sovereigne, both before and since the Conquest, to defray such charge, as either the defence of the land from spoyle, or the Sea from piracy, should expose the Prince unto.

And it was called *Danegeld*, *Gelda Regis*, or Hidage; and was assessed by the Hide, or plough-land, like to that *Ingrata per Jugera* in Rome; yet by no rate definite.

He also took other Exactions, (as the Monk of *St. Albans* saith) *Sive per fas, sive per nefas*: And into this list also of charge, he racked the Bishops, & Abbots, seising upon them; and at their charge a proportion of souldiers for his service; exiling many worthy men, that opposed (as they then thought) his thraldome.

William Rufus.

THe next is *Will. Rufus*, who in the *An. 7.* let upon the Heads of so many as he mustered up for the French wars 10. s. a man, and so discharged them.

And

And in Anno the 9, he spoyle the Churches of their Ornaments and holy vessels, and leavyed four Hidages of every plough Land, *Tributa Angliam modo, non abradens, sed extorciens.*

Ex antiquis
legibus
Anglia.

And so wearyed with wars, taxations, and expence, *Ne respirare poterit Anglia, sub ipso suffocata, quid jam non Regibus ausum, aut quid jam Regni restat fecit,* in this Kings time.

Henry the first.

Then Henry the first, who in *Anno quinto magnam a Regno* *exegit pecuniam.*

Hist. Guilt.
Gisbourne.

And by this means, *gravabitur terra Anglia oppressionibus multis.*

Hist. Math:

He took also in the 10. year six shillings *danegeld*; and the 17. year, *Anglia fuit variis depressa, ex actionibus, & bonis, sine peccato spoliata.*

Par.
Hen. Huntingdon.

King Stephen.

For King Stephen, there needs no more, but the words of the Monk of Gisbourn, *Post annum sext. pax nulla; omnes partes torrebant violenta predatio.*

Henry the second.

Henry the second, alluding, and not unlike to the *Frodo* given the Eremites in the decline of the Empire, as *Salvator*, continued the policy of his Progenitors, who allotted the land into such, and so many equal portions, as might seem competent for the supportation of a Knight or man at arms, from whom as occasion required, he received either service or contribution. This tenure, now esteemed a thralldom, began upon a voluntary submission; and therefore respecting their first immediate dependancy upon the Crown, which is a great part of the Kings honour, their duties and escheats a great benefit, and their attendance by tenure in war, at their own charge, to the number of 60216. at the least, (for the Knights fees in England are no lesse) a great ease and strength to his State; for they are *Totidem hosta-*

Bracton.

gia

gia, as *Bratton* layth, It were a thing perillous now to alter after such a current of time and custome.

He in the beginning of his Reigne took a Scutage, whereof there is no record.

But the second Scutage, which was in *Anno quinto*, amounted to 124 *Millia Librarum Argenti*, which reduced to the Standard of our monies to 5. s. the Ounce; whereas that was not five groats, will amount to neare 400000. l.

Ex lib. Rub.
in Sc.

In *Anno* the 7. *Scutagium fuit Assessum, ad duas Marcas*, which if summed up, by the received number of Knights fees, being 60216. in the hands of the Layety cannot be lesse than 250000 l.

The like in the next year; and in *An. the 11.* there was an ayd of two pence, *de unaquaque Libra.*

Cerv. Do-
reb.

And *quatuor sequentibus Annis de singulis libris, singulas denarias* was taken of all men, and their estates and full fortunes, being delivered upon their oaths.

Rub. lib.
in Sc.

And in the 14. year, a Scutage was assessed, *ad marcam unam, de singulis feodis.*

Mist. Ros.
fent.
Marth. Par.

And in the 18. year, *Scutagium pro quolibet Feodo.*

And in the 35. of his Raigne, a tenth of all mens moveables was granted; In which dying 900. *Millia libr. in Auro, & Argento prater utensilia & focalia retulit.*

Richard the first.

Rub. lib. in
Sc.
Hist. Matt.
Paris.

Richard the first, in the beginning of his Reigne, besides *Scutagium Wallie assessum*, at ten shillings leavied, (as in the succour of the holy Land) a Subsidy out of all the moveables in the Realm to his owne use: *Et Eleeno sine titula vitium rapacitatis incluserit.*

A Contribution there was in his sixth year of 150 *Millia Marcarum Argenti*, to pay his ransom, as also a Scutage assessed at 20. s.

Ex Johan.
de Everf-
dea.

And in the 7. year, he imposeth a contribution, called *Tenementale*, extremity inventing, *Nova & varia pradandi vocabula*; and this was 2. s. of every plough-land from the husband-man, and from the gentry & nobility, the 3. part of their Militarie service.

Walc. Cov-
ventry.
Mat. Paris.

He enforced the *Cistercian* Monks, to redeem their Woods, *sine Coriaria*, assessed a Scutage at 20. s. and four years after of every plough Land 5 shillings, and of every Burrough and City,

Dnos

(1)

Duos Palfridos, & totidem summarias, and of every Abbot, halfe asmuch; than loosing of purpose his great seal, proclaimed that, *Omnes Charta & Confirmationes, quae Prioris sigilli impressione roboraverat*, should be void, whereby he drew from all men a composition of their Liberties.

ex Charta orig.

This fashion was afterwards taken up by some of his successors, as in the eleventh of Henry the thirds raigne; and therefore, some reason Richard had in the end to become a gatherer, that had not long before, by accompt of his Chancellor Hubert then Archbishop, spent *Intra biennium undecies centena millia Marcarum argenti de regno Anglie.*

ex hist. Mar. Paris, pag. 29

King John.

In his Brother King John succeeding, took in the first year of his raigne, a Scutage assessed at two marks for the two next yeares, three shillings of every plough-Land; and the yeare following, besides a Scutage, the fourtieth of the revenues of the Clergy, and laity.

Rud. Coggeshall, lib. Rub. in Sc. Rog. Hoveden, Marth. Paris.

In the fourth yeare, he took the like Scutage, and the seventh part of the Moveables of the Barons, and Clergy; and in Anno quinto a Scutage assessed at two marks.

Lib. Rub. in Sc. Marth. Paris, & Rud. Coggeshall.

The like in his six and seventh yeares, twenty shillings Scutage, and the thirteenth part of the Moveables, aswell of the Clergy, as the laity in the yeare following.

In Anno the ninth, he exacted by redemption of the concubines of the Clergy, a great sum; and in the eleventh, (*Extorsit tributum grave foedelicor 140 millia librarum, a viris Ecclesiasticis & Clericorum boveum invadit.*)

Rud. Coggeshall, lib. Marth. Paris.

In the 12 a Scutage assessed at two marks; besides the exaction of 20000 from the Cisterrians.

He took in the 13 yeare, a Scutage of 20 shillings.

Rud. Coggeshall, lib. Rub. in Sc. & Marth. Paris, hist. Minor.

In the yeare following, from the Ministers of the Church, 40000 marks.

And in the 16 yeare, *Scutagium assessum ad tres Marcas.*

Thus, in the space of 17 yeares; was the State delivered but thrice from impositions.

B Henry

Henry the third.

ANd now for Henry the third, there was in his time assessed upon the Clergy, Nobility, and Gentry, fifteen Scutages, one at ten shillings, two at 20 shillings, eight at two marks, and foure at forty shillings the Knights fee.

The Land of the Inferior were twice taxed at half a marck the plough, and two tallages upon the Land of the Crown.

From out of the moveable goods of the lay Subjects, have been taken five times, as sometimes the fortyth, thirtyth, twentyth, and fifteenth parts, and once the sixteenth of the Clergy, for this King.

He likewise imposed nine times a tenth upon the Church, six times for a yeare only, and by it self, once accompanied with the first fruits, once for three yeares, and once for five, besides two Aides, the one Moderate, the other called *gravis Exaltio*, and that worthily, if to the eight hundred marks, imposed upon Saint Edmonds-Bury, all the other Abbeys were rated accordingly.

And by the accompt of William de Middleton, he received in the time of his government, *de exitu Scutagium*, foure millions and 20000.

And, as in all the 56 yeares of his raigne. (excepting five) either the Church or Common-wealth were charged, with contribution and taxes: so were they grieved with other exactions, either for carriages, victuals, or personall attendance.

For in his sixteenth yeare, the inhabitants of Winchelsey were enjoyned, *ut providerent decem bonas naves & magnas*.

And at another time, for twenty, Dunwich and Ipswich five a peece, and all the ports proportionably at their own charges.

And in the same yeare, there was taken, and transported 10000 quarters of wheate, 5000 of oates, and many Bacons, the Church not forborne in those charges, for, from Winchester was taken 2000 quarters of wheate and oates, and 10000 of Bacons, the other Bishops and Clergy, bearing their charges of victuals in the like taxations, comming, *ut unda supervenit unda, ac si esset Anglia patens inexhaustus*.

And in the twelfth and fourteenth, the King levieth Souldiers.

Claus. anno
19 H: 3. &
Math. West
minster.

Ex Stat. an.
4, ca. 17.
dors.

Claus. anno
16, H: 3. &
Eversden.

Ex li. Cant.
Epi.

Ex Eversd.
& Paris

Ex Eversd.

Dors. Claus.
anno 16, H:
3, ex Wale.
Gisborne.
Eversden &
Paris.

ex li. Chanc.
Cant. Epi. 8
H: 6

Rac. anno 3
Ed. 1 & Rot.
Claus. anno
26 H: 3 Mar.
Paris pa. 517
Dors. Claus.
anno 14, H:
3, M: 8, &
Claus. 12, H:
3, M: 2

Claus. an. 14
H: 3, nu. 7

Claus. anno
16 H: 3, M: u

(7)
diers for his wars beyond Sea, collecting *Benemerita* for *distin-*
guis duobus bidis cari; and to bring *secum* *vittuals* and those that
were dispenced withall, to contribute for vittuals to those that
went for fourty days, commanding the Sheriffs to swear all, *Ad*
arma &c. as were sworn in the time of K. *John* his Father; by wch
ordinance, all able Subjects from youth to decrepit age, were
bound to arme themselves and be in continuall readinesse (*a Jero-*
nusque ad mane) for so the record is to attend the Kings' pleasure;
and these men thus sworn to bring with them, *Loricis, Helmbo-*
nes, &c. and to such, as neglected, he sent out his writs, repre-
hending at first, *Inurgatoria eo quod, &c.* and after finding them,
according to their abilities and tenures, as taking in *Anno* the 26
of *William de Umfrevile* 100 marcks, and so in proportion of ma-
ny others.

Edward the first.

Edward the first, exacted from the Lands of his Subjects four
times Scutage, assessed at every time 40 shillings the Knights
fee, and once an ayde, called *Auxilium novum*, which he farmed
out for ready money.

Out of the rents of the Clergy, he tooke a tenth part, twice for
one yeare, and once for six, and the twentieth part twice from
both the Provinces, and once for two yeares from *Canterbury* on-
ly, and seised once into his own hands the possessions of the Pri-
ors Aliens.

Of the goods of the Clergy, he took the thirtieth, fifteenth, and
the fifth part once, the moiety three times, and the tenth seven
times, first, for two yeares, and then for three yeares, and once
for six yeares.

Of the goods of the Commons, the eighth, the ninth, and the
twelveth part he took once; twice severally the tenth and 1^h,
the Sessors being sworn to leavy and rate truly.

Three times he had the fifteenth part, and once the moiety of a
fifteenth from the Clergy and laity together.

And this King had granted of the moveables a tenth, a fifteenth,
and a third part of the Cities and Boroughs, besides a great loane
on the seventh and eighth, and twice the sixth part from the
Merchants, and a twentieth and seven portion, once of there com-
modities, imposing a new custome of a Noble upon every sack of
wooll, which he let out to farme.

Rot. Vasco.
anno 22 Ed.
1 M. 8

And under pretence of some breach of amity with those parts, whither his Merchants traded, he seized in Anno the 22. all the wools into his hands, and made of them instant sale to the best value, leaving them upon security to a short price, and a long day of payment.

Rot. Vasco.
anno 22 Ed.
1 M. 17

He took the same yeare to the distast of the Pope, and murmur of the Clergy, all the mony gathered *In Subsidium Terre Sancte.*

Rot. Vasco.
an. 22 Ed. 1

And lastly, upon the persons of his Subjects, he imposed one tallage, sessed either *in Communi*, or *per capita*, and twice the like upon the Jews, whereof the one amounted to 5000 marks.

Rot. Parli.
an. 31 Ed. 1
Ex hist. Joh.
Everiden,

Neither were his people freed from attendance in their persons, or exactions in their estates all his raigne; for there was but one yeare of intermission from continuall payments; for in record, there appeare his writs to the Sheriffes, as in Anno the 31 *De peditibus eligendis de tota Anglia*, and to be found by their severall Countries, calling his Earles, Barons, and Knights to personall service, according to their Tenures.

Edward the second.

EDward the second, his Son, assessed upon the Lands of his Subjects, one or two Marcks at once, at ten shillings the Knights fee.

From the revenues of the Clergy, rated by the book of rents, he at distinct times, took 4, 5, and 6^d. in the mark, and once a fifteenth part of the whole.

From the goods of the Clergy, a tenth for three yeares, and twice a loane from the Abbots and Bishops.

Claus. anno 3
Ed. 2 M. 9

From the laity, (besides a tallage of their moveables) in Cities and Boroughs, once a tenth, twice a fifteenth, and twice a twentieth part of their goods, besides a loane from the Commons, and ten shillings borrowed upon every sack of wooll from merchant strangers, and a Noble from others, Clergy and laity together.

Claus. anno 16 Ed. 2
Claus. anno 12 Ed. 2

Of their goods a tenth, a fifteenth, and twice an eighteenth part besides a loane.

He augmented his Fathers new Custome, with an imposition of a Noble more upon every sack of wooll.

And

And in Anno decimo, because he was infinitam pecuniam effundere, he ferreth and increaseth an imposition upon all commodities inward and outward, to an extream rate, & causeth the Commons in every shire, to lay down monies in deposito, to pay his Souldiers.

And took from the Nobility, and Gentry, a large contribution, and seized Omnes lanas, & coria mercatorum, &c.

He charged the Ports, and Sea-Towns twelve severall yeares, Ad costas suos, & sumptibus villarum, (as the Record sayth) to set to sea in his service, ships furnished Armis & victualibus; sometimes for one moneths space, as in Anno the 11.

Sometimes for four, as in Anno the twelfth. Sometimes for seven. And Anno quarto, the number of ships, more or lesse as occasion required.

And in Anno the seventeenth, Southampton was charged with six; and 180. Sea-townes more with ratable proportions for the Kings service.

And in Anno the 18. imbarquing all the ships that were in any Port, that were of 40 Tuns and upwards, or of 50 Tuns and upwards.

And in Anno 2. causing the Town of Southampton to build a Gally for himself of 120. Oars; and commanding all the Sheriffs for provision of victualls.

And in An. 1. 4. & 9. To provide De exitibus Comitatus ad certum pretium. Sometimes to the proportion of 3500 quarters of Corne: and many Bacons, as An. the 16. and to send them to the Kings Army; as also Carrecta, & Carra cum equis, & Bobus, out of every severall County.

Sometimes he made the Ports to send provision themselves, as An. the 7. and not to suffer any ship with victualls, Ibidem disarmari; And herein, not sparing the Church, exacted the first three years, Fermenta & alia victualia from them.

Besides the former charges, the persons of all men, as well of the Nobility as meaner Rank, were at their owne charges often enjoyned to serve, as in the 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 16 of this King, when they were called singulatim; as well Knights and Noble-men, as such as held 40 pound land, according to their Tenures, subforisfactur. Terrarum, & Cattallorum equis & Armis sumptibus propriis, &c. And of this the Clergy were not exempted, as in Anno the 16. of this King.

And

Rot. Vasc.
An. 21. Ed.
M. 13. in
Sched.

Rot. Scot.
An. 11. M. 1

An. 12. M. 8
Rot. Parl.
An. 4. Ed.
3. Dorf.
Clau's an.
17. Ed. 2.
M. 11.

Clau's an.
18. M. 34
& Rot.
Vasc. M. 29.

Clau's an. 2.
M. 11.
Clau's an. 6.
Ed. 3.
Rot. Scot.
an. 1, 2, 3.
M. 10.
& an. 4. M.
5. & an. 9.
Rot. Parl.
an. 10. M.
12. Rot.
Parl. an. 16
M. 3.
Rot. Scot.
Dorf. An. 7.
M. 8. Dorf.
Clau's an. 10
M. 3. Rot.
Sec. an. 2.
3. M. 8.
Rot. Scot.
an. 8. Ed. 3.
Dorf. Clau's
an. 9. Clau's.
16. Ed. 2. M
7. Clau's an.
16. M. 20:
Clau's an;
16. M. 11.

And in the first three years of this King, out of one Town one, *sumptibus propriis*, for forty dayes: As *Anno* the 5. one: Or for 16. dayes; as *Anno novo* one; or *pro septem septimanis* one, as *Anno quarto*. Sometimes a thousand in one Countrey, as *Anno* 3. Some times an entire Army of 18300, as in *An.* the 11. And 48. thousand 800. at the charge of all the Countries.

And *An. decimo quinto*, London, *sumptibus Civitatis*, found 500 men for 40 dayes. And the like *An.* the 18.

The King likewise commanded *Anno* the sixteenth, that all men of forty shillings Lands and upwards, should rateably send to his service Men: And *Annis* 9, 10, 15. and 16. that all *iurati ad arma*: or from 16, to 60. *secundum Stat. Wincestrie* should attend his service.

And *An.* the 13. enjoined all from 20. to 60. armed and victualled at their owne charge.

And commanded the Sheriffs *An.* 6, 7, 8, 12, 16, and 18. to see all able men, that *parati sint & muniti ad veniendum ad Regem quando vocati fuerint*; their weapons to be provided *ad sumptus incolarum*; and themselves enjoined to muster and traine every six weeks.

If any neglected his appoynted service, there was sent to the Sheriffs a writ *De habendis illis coram concilio qui premoniti non venerunt in expeditione Regis*, as *An. quinto* one; the parties imprisoned, and their goods seised into the Kings hands, as *An.* the ninth and sixteenth; or else redemption by Fine, as the Sheriffs of Bedford, and Buckingham did their men, for six hundred Marks in *Anno decimo quinto*: And the owner of fourty pound land, at his first fault, was punished *cum tertia parte bonorum*; for his second, *Cum tota residua*; and for his third, *fuit corpora eorum ad voluntatem Regis*: and of Knights twenty pounds *de qualibet Hida*, as in *Anno* the 13.

I have the longer insisted upon this Kings Reigne, that *quam in speculo*, we may behold the intolerable miseries and actions charged and cast upon the Nobility, Clergy, and Commons in former time.

Edward

Rot. Parl.
An. 15. M.
19. Claus.
an. 18. M.
13.
Rot. Parl.
an. 16. M.
27. Rot.
Parl. an. no
9. M. 21.
Rot. Claus.
an. 10. M. 13.
& an. 16.
M. 27. Rot.
Scot. an. 13.
M. 13.
Doct. Claus.
an. 6. M. 18.
Rot. Scot.
an. 7. M. 10.
Claus an. 8.
M. 30.
Rot. Scot.
an. 12. M. 6.
Claus. anno
16. M. 12.
Claus. An.
15. Ed. 2. M.
14. Rot.
Fin. an. 15.
M. 16. Rot.
Claus. an. 9.
M. 1. Rot.
Parl. An. 16.
M. 1.
Rot. Claus.
an. 15. M. 19.
Rot. Scot.
an. 13. M. 1.
& Claus. an.
13. Memb.
10.

Edward the third.

Edward the third charged the Lands of his Subjects twice forty shillings of every Knights Fee; and five pounds sixteen shillings of every parish: And in the 48. of his Reigne, out of the goods of the Commons he took once the ninth part, and the fifteenth part of Possessors and wastes, twice the tenth, 13. times the fifteenth for one yeare, and twice for three years, and once the twentieth part of all moveables, and 30000. Sacks of Wooll.

Of the Burroughes and Cities, four tenths, and one for three years.

From the Temporall Lords, the tenth sheafe, Lambe, and fleece, who with the Bishops and Knights granted 20000 Sacks of Wooll, &c.

Of the Clergy alone one tenth, for four years; besides a contribution in the twelfth yeare of his Reigne. seising the same yeare all the goods of the Clunny and Cistercian Monks.

Of the Church and Laity together, he received six times the tenth of all their moveables.

And from the Merchants and Staple, a Subsidy of wooll for three yeares.

Imposing in *Anna* the 33. sixe and twenty shillings and eight pence upon every Sack of wooll transported, which doubled the impositions of his father, and grandfather, advancing it after for six yeares to 40. s.

And in *An.* the 38. (being the yeare he resumed his stile of France to 46. s. 4. d. the sack of wooll: taking poundage of all commodities six pence inward and outward; and joyning the Merchants for every sampler of wooll transported to return in 40. s. Bullyon in his Mint, himselfe becoming Merchant of all the Tin in Devon-shire, and Cornwall in *An.* the 12.

And in *An.* the 15. assessed upon the heads of his Subjects a fine of four pence severally.

Besides, in *Anno* the 20. he took a Loan of all the Bishops, Abbots, Iustices, & *aliis potentioribus Regni de diversis pecuniarum summis, inter summas*, of one hundred thousand and forty pounds.

Rot. Parl.
an no 48;
Ed; 3; M;
10.

Rot. Al-
man. An 12.
Mp 7.

Claus. An.
20. Ed. 3.
M. 21: in 11
dors.

Claus. an.
1. Ed. 3. M.
22. in dors.

In the first yeare of his Reigne, he commanded all the Sea-Townes, to attend with shippes his service, *sumptibus propriis, & amplius Esquipamenta*; and to provide them of 60. Townes, and upwards.

Claus. an. 2
Ed. 3.

And in the yeare following, layeth the like charge upon 76. Port Townes, for all ships of forty Tuns, and more.

Claus. an. 10
Ed. & Rot.
Scot. an. 10.
Memb. 9.
Rot. Al.
anno 12.
Rot. Scot.
an. 10. M. 15

And in Anno the tenth the like at their owne charge; besides a contribution of money for payment; whereof the Officers are commanded, *Ut eos per districtiones, et alias pansiones prout expedit, re viderint, compellant*; enjoining such Merchants of London, *ex transmarinis passagiis, lucra adquirunt*, To furnish Ships for war at their own charge.

And in Anno the 14. the Cinque Ports set out to Sea, thirty ships, and maintained them during the service, half at their own, and halfe at the Countries charge, eighty being furnished and defrayed by the out-Ports, and the Admirall being directed to Imbargue all the other shippes for the Kings service.

Rot. Alm.
anno 1. Ed.
3. Mem. 2.

And although the Subjects found this an infinite grievance, yet could they not, upon humble complaint in Parliament, receive any further relief; but that the King would not have it otherwise than before.

Rot. Scot.
anno 10. M.
17.

For provision hee took of his subjects 10000 Quarters of Graine, 2200. Oxen salted, and 3000 Bacons; besides of other provisions an infinite quantity: and the like was very frequent all his Reigne.

Rot. Scot. an.
1. M. 2.
Parl. anno
14. Ed. 3.

The persons of all meaner subjects from sixteen to sixty he caused to be armed in a readinesse, and the Gentry and Nobility supplying the King at their owne charges with seven hundred, or eight hundred men at Arms, and two thousand, or three thousand Archers: as An. the 14. with other proportions for divers yeares following.

Rot. Franc.
anno 46.

And the Bishops ordered to furnish, *Armis et equis compellan- tibus*; so many as occasion required; So that seeing these things were so grievous and burthensome unto them, they in the 21. yeare of his Reigne complayned in Parliament of the miserie they underwent thereby; as of their ayds, advanced to forty shillings fine, that in Law should bee but twenty shillings. Their setting forth of men, and the Kings taking of their shal- lalls without payment, the Sea left to the charge of their keep- ing. And from their Woolls by way of Subsidie, there

Anno 21.
Ed. 3.

was 6000^l. yearly exacted without Law, (besides the lending of monyes) and themselves restrained from transporting any, yet such was the necessity of those times, that they neither had recourse of their complaint, nor the State one yeare free, or discharged of contributions, impositions, and exactions all his raigne.

Richard the second.

Richard the second succeeding his Grandfather, took of the Clergy and laity, once the tenth of all their Lands, and thrice the goods of the Comm. the like entirely, and 6 times the half, twelve times a fifteenth, and 6 times the moiety.

Parl. anno 2
& 14 R. 2
quib.

And had *Anno* the 21, granted one tenth to him, and a fifteenth and a half of either of them yearly for terme of life.

From out of the Boroughs and Cities, thrice a full tenth, and once a moiety.

Out of all merchandize, he received three yeares six pence in the pound, and once twelve pence.

And for every tonne of wine and such commodities, six pence for two yeares, doubling it for as many, and trebling it for as many.

The custome of wools, rated by *Edward* the first, at a Noble a sack, and under his Son increased as much more, was to this King two shillings and eight pence, which single for eight yeares, he had granted unto him, besides once for three yeares, and once for eare, having after improved it to foure and thirty shillings and eare pence the sack.

The sum of these Subsidies, in *Anno decimo quarto*, amounted unto 160000 pounds.

From out of the goods of the Clergy, he had eight tenths and a half, and once out of them and the laity together, besides a loane *Anno quinto* of 6000^l.

By the Poll, or Heads of all his people, from above fifteen years, he collected twice a contribution assessed proportionably from the beggar to the Duke.

Besides, in strength of prerogative only, of every ship and fisherman six pence.

The like of *New-castle* coales, and of every last of corne, inwards and outwards the like sum.

(18)
He also took their horses, armour, and cattel, (*hinc factum est subditis inuisum*, saith the Bishop of London) and so it seemed, for at his deposing, it was one of the objected Articles, against him.

He, the first yeare of his raigne, imposed upon his Subjects, as formerly his Ancestors had done, a personall service, as *Anno primo*, that all the Clergy shall array, *Armis & equis competentibus*, from the age of 16 to 60. & *eos millenis & centenis provisos facient*.

Thus under grievous burthens, the State laboured continually for his treasury, being wastfully emptyed, was (as *Tacitus* saith) of *Tiberius*, *scelere replendum*, by which he meant the intolerable racking of the people.

And therefore crave to have his present Officers removed, and very hardly would be drawn any more to taxe themselves, but conditionally, and with this limitation, that their mony should be received, expended, and accompted for to themselves, and by Treasurers of their own election; and are content in the end to load his poore dejected fortunes, with the reproachfull weight of these their many burthens.

Thus, you see, this unfortunate Prince, first brought into want, than into contempt, and last of all deposed; a most remarkable President, for these our times, had actions, and occasions, fitted opportunitie and intentions.

Henry the fourth.

Henry the fourth, in 13 yeares, out of the Lands of his people received twice relief, once *Auxilium de medietate feodorum*, and againe, a Noble out of every twenty pounds, throughout all his Realme.

Out of the goods of the Commons, foure times a tenth, besides one for three yeares; and the like one and a half for two, and for three yeares, a poundage at eight pence once, and foure times twelve pence, whereof the last was for foure yeares.

The like number and yeares of the tonnage, the first only rated at two shillings, the rest at 4 shillings the tonne. Out of the moveables of the Clergy, thrice a tenth, and twice a moiety.

As also out of every Stipendary Minister, Pryer, and such manner of persons six shillings and eight pence a piece.

2 cont. in 7

2. H. 1. 4

Tacit. lib. 2

Rot. Parlia.

anno 1 H. 4

nu. 2

Besides all these, of all he took *anno octavo*, a contribution, *ita gravum*, that it was granted, *Ea condicione, ne trahatur in exemplum, & ut eandem post datum computum cremarentur.*

Hist. Thom.
Walsingham.

Henry the fifth.

Henry the fifth his Sonne next succeeded him, in whose nine yeares raigne, I find no charge imposed upon the Lands of his Subjects.

Out of the goods of the Commons, he received six times the tenth and a fifteenth entirely, and once a thirds of Staple-Wares, once for foure yeares, and after for life.

Three shillings tonnage and twelve pence poundage, thrice he had the tenth of his Clergy.

And in the eighth yeate of his raigne, when the Chancellor bewailed to him in Parliament the feebleness and poverty of the people, he, who of as many attempts as he undertook, *Totidem fecit Monumenta Victoria*, yet for redresse, and ease of those miseries, as *Livy* saith of an excellent Souldier, *pacem voluit, quia vincere potuit*, and left in the ninth yeare of his raigne, a peaceable successor and heire.

Henry the sixth.

Henry the sixth, *Nimium felix malo suo*, as the event proved; for retaining *paterna Majestas*, *mobis prater speciem nominis*, By feare, and facility laid the way open to his factious and ambitious kindred, to work themselves into popular favour, and himself into contempt, which was soon done by leading the easy King by expence into extremity.

For, besides the resumption, he took on his own and his Fathers grants, which was of purpose plotted to make a consumption of duty, and affection towards him, he, out of the old inheritance of his Subjects, exacted six pence in the pound, in *anno* the 14th and doubled twice that valuation, not onely of all Lands purchased from the entrance of *Edward* the first, but all free-hold and copy-hold, under 200^l. and two in twenty of all above.

He further imposed, first 6^s. 8^d. and then 20^s. upon every Knights fee.

Out of the goods of the Commons, he had six tenths, whereof, one for three yeares besides three moities, and one third of fifteens, three halves, one third, and eighth entire.

Besides these former, out of the wools he had 37 thousand, 1071 raised by a moiety of a tenth.

And againe, of all goods 6 shillings and 8 pence in the pound of the merchants. Of Subsidies, rated as in former times, he had then by grant, once, but for a yeare trebled; for three and a half this Subsidie was advanced to 3 3^s. and 4 pence of denizens, and 5 3^s. 4 pence of Aliens.

Besides a Subsidie, a loane of Aliens goods, tonnage, and poundage, improved to 6 shillings and eight pence. He took in his 18th yeare, and after the rates of his Fathers time, he took it first, thrice 10 yeares, then, as often for two yeares, and againe by a new grant for five yeares, and in the end for terme of his life.

Anno 31 H³ Of the Clergy, he had besides one half of Dismees, soure entire tenths, and by the State in generall in Anno the 31. of Hen. 6. 2000 Archers maintained for half a yeare at the Common charge

Anno 18 H³ By the Poll, he exacted in Anno the eighteenth of every merchant stranger, if an householder 16 shillings a piece, if none six shillings.

Anno 27 H³ And in Anno the 27, 6 shillings 8 pence of every such stranger, and 20^s. of their Clerks.

Anno 13 H³ In Anno the 13, he had granted for terme of his life 10^l. a yeare of all inhabitants, meere denizens, and 20^s. of every stranger merchant that came into the Land.

The first Monopolies The first Monopolies I find, were grounded upon the extremity of these times.

For in Anno the 29, th Spinalloes Merchants of Genoa had by grant for 8 thousand pounds, the Sole trade of many Staple commodities, as the merchants of Southampton had all Allome for the same summe.

en Patreus In the end, as one saith of Lepidus, *A Militibus, & a fortuna deseritum*, he was left a while to a disgraced life, *Spoliata quam tueri non poterat dignitate*, A woful example, and still fresh bleeding in blut memories.

Edward the fourth

EDward the fourth, besides two Resumptions, not onely of the Egrants of such Kings, as he accounted *de facto*: and not *de jure* to reigne: But also of those made by himself, a sea of profit, that by infinite attainders flowed dayly into his Treasurie, took notwithstanding of the Lords spirituall and temporall onely a tenth of their yearly possessions, and of the Commons six tenths, three quarters, and the like proportion of fifteens.

A Benevolence in *An.* the 14. which *Fabian* calleth a new contribution, and chargeth them in *An.* the 12. with the wages of his Archers, to the sum of 51117. l.

Of the Merchants he took Tonnage and Poundage, for terme of life; Besides of Merchants, as well Denizens as strangers a Subsidy, the two and twentieth of his reigne, leaving his kingdom in the next, to the few dayes of his sonne.

Chron. Fabian Rot. Parl. anno 12. Ed. 4. nu. 8.

Edward the fifth.

FOr, *Ostendunt Terris hunc tantum fata; nec ultra esse sinent.*

Richard the third.

Richard the third his Vncle succeeded, *homo ingeniosissime nequam, & facundus malo publico*; full of art to beguile the people; he to make a just semblance of his unjust entry, besides his act of Parliament full of dangerous untruthes, dissembled the part of an excellent Prince, making the Commons believe by a statute, to which he gave first form of life, discharged them for ever of all exactions, called benevolences; so that in all his short and wicked reigne I find recorded but once any tax upon the people, and that was tenths granted by the Clergy of both Provinces.

Henric

Henry the seventh:

Henry the seventh succeeding, resumed in the third of his Reigne, most of the grants of Offices made by his brother, and assessed upon the Lands, onely of his Subjects, but one ayd, in *Anno* the 19. out of their goods and lands, a tenth peny, and fifteenth, arising to the sum of 120000.

He took three Subsidies, whereof the last was not above 36000. pounds.

And one benevolence, and an entire sum of the City of Lond. of 9688. l. 17. s. 4. d.

Of the Clergy he had twice the tenth and 25000. pound, by way of Subsidy, and of them and the Commons two Loans, the City of London rated at 6000. l. the other not definite in proportion, but so assessed, as the Commissioners and the Lenders could agree, &c.

Ex litera
missa, Aba-
tissæ Bar-
king manu
regis H. 7
Ex lib. A.
quiet inter
regem &
Dudley

But that whereby he heaped up his Masse of Treasure: for he left in Bullion four Millions and a halfe, besides his plate jewels, and rich attire of house, was by sale of Offices, Redemption of penalties, dispensing with Lawes, and such like, to the yearly value of 120000. l.

Henrie the eighth.

Henrie the eighth his successor, reaping the fruit of his Fathers Labour, gave ease of burthen to his Subjects, his first two yeares, taking within the compasse of his other thirty foure, three tenths of the Commons, foure fifteens, six Subsidies, whereof that in *An. quarto* amounted to 160000 l. And that in *An. the 7.* to 110000. l.

Tonnage he had and poundage also, besides many other taxatious, loans, and benevolences, which I here purposely omit, because I hasten to an end; I will therefore touch two of the most remarkable; and those were taken by strength of prerogative also, &c.

The one was that in *Anno* the 17. acted by Commissioners, who as themselves were sworn to the service: so were they to sweare

swear all those with whom they did conferre or contract, the rates directed by instructions, as the thirds of all goods, Offices and lands above ten pounds, and the fourth under.

The other about *An.* the 36. Exacteth out of all goods, Offices, and lands, from 40 pounds to twenty, eight pence in the pound: and of all above twelve pence in the pound.

And amongst the many Loans, there is none more notorious than that of the 14. which was ten pound in the hundred, of all goods, jewells, utensils, and Land from twenty to three hundred pounds, and twenty Marcks of all above, as farre as the Subjects fortune revealed by the extremity of his oath would reveale.

Ex instruct
orig. an. 14.
H. 8.

And to the Revenues of his Crown, he added a masse of treasure, by an inhumane spoyle of sacred Monuments, and impious ruine of holy Churches, if Gods blessing could have accompanied so foule an act.

Edward the sixth.

Edward the sixth his sonne, besides Tonnage and Poundage for life, in *Anno* the 1. received of his Lay subjects six fifteens; and of both three Subsidies, leaving one of the temporality ungathered with his sister.

Queen Marie.

Queen Marie remitted in *Anno primo* of her Reigne, yet was she inforced to presse upon her people; and besides the Loan in *Anno* 1. for terme of life granted unto her by Parliament, shee laid an imposition of six shillings eight-pence upon Wines; and a new imposition upon French Wines, and took besides five fifteens of the Commons: and of them, and of the Clergy three years Subsidies.

Queen

Queen Elizabeth:

Queen Elizabeth her Sister, of happy memory succeeding, besides divers Loans of her people, and others in forraign parts, with the imposition upon cloathes and French wines, had by grant of her subjects thirty eight fiftens, twenty Subsidies, of the Commons, and eight and twenty of the Clergy: All which together rose to a summe of two Millions and 800000. pounds.

Thus having at the last drawne downe the many and mighty pressing burthens of this Common-weale, which were, and have bin taken, either by prerogative power, or by general grant, I hope by this time you perceiue that His Majesties Taxations are not, nay have not beene so frequent or usuall, so many or intolerable; nor yet, either in quantity or quality to them in any degree comparable.

Let us then see, in what or wherein His Majesty hath transcended: or wherein, or by what meanes those few (compared to this multitude) should lye so heavy, and be such a gnawing corrosive unto the subjects heart, that he, and he alone of all his Predecessors (excepting two, and they had Competitors) must be by these fire-brands of strife, and the very tempests of sedition, thus hatefully detracted, scorned and villified.

Is it for Tonnage, or Poundage? why that was taken by *Edw.* the second, *Edward* the third, *Henry* the fourth, *Henry* the fifth, *Henry* the sixth, *Edw.* the fourth, *Henry* the seventh, *Henry* the eighth, and *Edw.* the sixth.

Is it for ships, or ship-money? why that was taken likewise by *Wil.* the Conquerour, *Ed.* the second, *Ed.* the third, and *Rich.* the second.

Is it for Monopolies? why that was first invented by *Henry* the sixth, and so hath since continued.

Is it for tassing all men by the Poll, or head? why that was done by *Edward* the first, *Richard* the second, and *Henry* the sixth.

And yet I pray you, understand how it came to him, and observe the cause that first drew him into this want, and thus exhausted

hausted his Treasure, it was by reason of our good Brethren of Scotlands rising, (mistake me not, for I do not mean their fleshly, but their spirituall rising) who, like the *Ammonites* and *Mobabites* were to the children of *Israel*, so were they at that present to us, like Thornes in our eyes, and Goads in our sides.

And thus, you see how far short his Majesty is, or hath been of his Predecessors to lay unusuall, and unheard of taxations upon us; their little fingers having been heavier to them, than hitherto his Majesties loines have been to us.

If then Hidage and Scutage, corn, wooll, fleece, lambe, and other provisions; if tonnage and poundage; if ships, shipping, men, and monies, if selling by the Parish, by Cities and Boroughs, by *Cenementale*, or *per Capita hominum*, from the Beggar to the Duke, if new Aides and Monopolies, if the twentieth, thirtieth, fourtieth, fifteenth, thirteenth, twelfth, tenth, ninth, eighth, seventh, fifth, and a third part of our Estates, goods, lands, and moveables; if these, I say, and many other grievous and heavy impositions, and Burthens (as yet by him unpractised) have been heretofore frequently and usuallly taken, and levied, aswell by prerogative power, as generall grant; how then can his Majesties taxations be accompted usuall, his proceedi illegall, and his governement tyrannicall.

Hath he pawned the Imperiall Crown of the Land, as *Ed. the 3.* and *Hen. the 5.* did.

Hath he laid to gage his royall Robes and Kingly ornaments, as *Hen. the 3.* did.

Hath he to repaire the breach of his own revenues, resumed the possessions of his people, as *Ed. the 2.* *R. the 2.* *Hen. 5.* *Hen. 6.* *Ed. 4.* and *Hen. the seventh* hath done.

Hath he of purpose, lost his great Scale, thereby inforcing you to buy your Liberties, as *Rich. the first* did.

Hath he alienated, or sold the possessions of the Crown, as *H. the 3.* *Hen. the 8.* and *Queen Elizabeth* did.

Hath he done these things, is he guilty, or can he be justly charged with them, if not, seek ye not then to manacle his hands, or tye his feet in fetters, because it is unlawfull to touch the Lords annointed; and do but remember that he is our King, a man, and no God.

But put case he hath, why, when neither frugality, or sale of Lands, would stop the gulf of want; our Princes have been to

deere beſet, as with *Norice* and *Antonie* the Emperors to ſell
and pawn their Jewels, as for example:

Rot. Parl.
anno 26 H; 3
M; 1

Rot. Parl.
Clauf. anno
2 Ed. 1 M; 7
Parl. anno 3
H; 4

Parl. anno
10 H; 6 M; 13

The Archbiſhop of York had power from Hen. the 3. in Anno
the 26. (he then being in Wars beyond Sea) *Impignorandi, Joca-*

lia Regis, ubicunque in Anglia, pro pecunia perquirenda.
Edward the firſt ſendeth *Egidius Andevan*, *Ad localia ſua*
impignoranda.

Hen. the 4. in Anno the 3. to a Merchant for money, *In vadavit*
Tabellam, & Treſſellas ſuas Argenteas de Hiſpania.

Hen. the 6. gageſſeth and ſelleth to the Cardinall of Wincheſter, and
others, in Anno the 10. many parcels of his rich Jewels.

And the late Queen *Elizabeth*, in the end of her days did the
like, to eaſe her Subjects with many in the tower.

And yet me thinks, I heare ſome whiſper in mine eare, and ſay,
that his Fathers ſonerall, and his engagements left in his owne
Royall Marriage, and the Queens entertainement, his Princely
Childrens Births, and their Royall Educations, his Siſters cal-
amities, and his Nephews infortunities, his Ambaſſadors ſending,
and Ambaſſadors comming, the repaire of the Queen Mother,
and her ſending away, (a Sea of treaſure this way exhausted from
him) are ſufficient Arguments herein, (if there were none other
as there are many) to clear his actions and innocency, and utterly
condemne their malice and impudency.

And thus having, I hope, fully cleared this point by our own
examples and authorities, let us, I pray you, throw our ſelves a
little further, and obſerve, and marke the State, practice, and go-
vernment of forraign Nations herein, and it will expreſſe a little
more life, and add a true luſtre to it.

And firſt, to begin with the Romans when they had gained the
Monarchy of the world, ſo, as all Kingly power did reſt in their
Emperor.

Julius Caesar.

Julius Caesar laid the firſt impoſition upon forraigne merchan-
dizes (ſaith *Suetonius*) and that impoſition was, *Oſtava rerum*
para, which is more by a fifth part, than our higheſt impoſition
in England, for it is 2s. 6 pence upon the pound.

Augustus Caesar

Next, *Augustus Caesar*, about the time of our Saviours Birth, sent out an Edict, whereby he did taxe all the world, and that taxe was *Capitatio*, or an imposition *super Capita hominum*, though the certainty thereof doth not appeare, but the Poll mony, which our Saviour himself did pay, and wrought a miracle to pay it, seemeth to be a high imposition, for the piece of money taken out of the fishes mouth, which is called a *Dedrachma* or *Stater*, is said to be worth 2^s. 6^d. sterling, which being for himself and Peter, that is 15^d. sterling was given for a Poll, which must needs amount to an infinite thing, if it were collected out of all the world, then subject to the Roman Empire.

Tyberius.

Then *Tyberius*, who succeeded *Augustus*, took the roo part of the price of all things bought and sold within the Empire.

Caligula.

After him *Caligula* the Emperor laid an imposition upon all Suits in Law, and took the fortiet part of the things sued for, set a price upon the Plaintive, if he compounded, or were non-suited; and set a taxe upon every Marriage contracted, or made within the whole Empire.

Vespasian.

Vespasian took more meaner, and homelier matters, for he took by way of imposition, a part of every poore mans labour, and Beggars Almes, and likewise set an Impost upon Urine, and pleased himself with this Apothegme, *Dulcis Odor lacri, ex re quar-
libet.*

Severus.

Severus the Emperor did impose upon the dishonest gaine of the Stews, and took a part of the prostituts hier, (the Bishop of

of Rome doth at this day) and all the Emperors before Trajan, took the twentieth part of all legacies, and Lands, descended at things unlookt for, and therefore the Heires and Legatories might spare a part thereof.

Nicephorus.

Nicephorus, one of the Emperors of the East, did not only take (*Fumaria Tributa*) smoke money out of every chimney, but he laid an imposition upon every mans estate, that grew suddenly rich upon a strong presumption, he had found some hidden treasure, which did belong to the Emperor by prerogative.

I could with a little more search, finde out other impositions of severall kindes, set by the Ancient Emperors upon the Heads of Beasts, upon the Tyles of houses, and upon every pane of glasse in windows; but let this suffice, how high they esteemed, and how farre they extended their prerogative in point of impositions.

I come now to the Kings and Princes of other Countries round about us, and let us see whether they have not, or do not make more profitable use of their prerogative than his Majesty hath done.

France.

And first for France, the most ancient and chiefest of the Neighbour Kingdomes, the impost, not only upon Merchandizes, but also upon Lands goods and persons within the realme, are so many in number and in nature, so divers as it is a paine to collect them all.

La Tallie, Le Tallon, Les Aides, Les equibulents, Les equipolents, Les Crues, or Augmentations of divers kindes, *Le Tropi*, or Benevolence, *La Gabelle*, upon Salt, amounting to an exceeding great value, the impost of Wines, *Le haulte passage*, or *de-maine Forraigne*, *La Marchandises*, exported, *Le solid de cinquantes*, with many other, which for brevity I passe over, that are laid and leavyed upon the Subjects, by the absolute power and prerogative of the King.

Spain.

The next is Spain, where there is a generall Imposition, by the name of *Alcavala*, imposed as well upon the Nobility as the Commons, which was at first rayed by *Alphonfus* the twelfth, to expell the Moors; but afterwards it was made perpetuall, and is now a principall part of the Royall patrimony.

Gutierrez de Gabellis: this imposition was at first but the twentieth part; but afterwards it was rayed to the tenth part of every mans estate, which doth farre surmount the highest imposition that ever was layd in England by the Kings prerogative, without consent of Parliament.

This *Alcavella* is an imposition within the Land: but the imposition upon Merchandizes exported and imported are farre more higher; for upon the In-gate of Indian spices into Portugall the King of Spaine laid the greatest rates that ever were set in Christendome: although upon the out-gate they were more moderate.

Italy.

In Italy the Impositions and Gabell set upon every kind of thing by the States and Princes there, are intollerable; and in especiall, upon the Towns and Territories that are subject to the great Duke of Tuscany, where there is not a root nor an herbe, nor the least thing that is necessary for the life of man bought or sold in any Town, but there is a Gabell or Imposition payd for it, where no Inne-holder, Baker, Brewer, or Artificer can exercise his trade, but the great Duke wil share with him in his gain, where no man can travaile by Land or by Water, but at every Barge, at every Ferry, at every Wharf or Key; and at every gate of a Town, the Gabeller arrests him; and is ready to set upon him naked, to search what goods he hath about him, for which he ought to pay a Gabell.

D 3

The

The Popes Territories.

In the Popes Territories, the impositions which his Holiness doth lay upon his Subjects, as a temporall Prince, are as many and as heavy as those that are leavyed by the Duke of Tuscany.

I will therefore omit to speak of the Exactions of the Court of Rome, which are infinite and in another kind, which long lay heavy upon all the Western Countries of Christendome, untill of late yeares some nations did free themselves thereof, by rejecting the yoke of the Bishop of Rome.

The Seigniorie of Venice.

In the Seigniorie of Venice, the Gabells upon the Land are more moderate, than in other parts of Italy, wherein they observe a profitable and politique course; for upon the commodities of other nations, which are of goods in their Commonwealth, they lay the easier impositions, sometimes five, sometimes seven, sometimes ten in the hundred; and upon all Manufactures imported out of other Countries, they do lay fifteen shillings of the hundred, which doth exceed the highest imposition in England five in the hundred at the least.

The grand Seignior of Turkey.

The grand Seignior of Turkey doth impose sometimes ten, sometimes twentic of the hundred upon Merchant strangers, who trade into the Levant. And I could speak of his other Exactions and impositions upon his vassalls; But, that I think it not meet to compare that Regions Tyrant with the States and Princes of Christendome.

Denmarke.

I could speak of the great Toll which the King of Denmarke taketh of every ship, that passeth into the Sound, whereas the King of England being the undoubted Lord of the narrow seas, might take the like Toll, and by the same right of prerogative, if it pleased him.

And

And thus having now at length, both by forraigne and domestic examples, as well out of Historie as Record, plainly proved, and made clear that his Majesties Taxations, neither were unufall, his proceedings illegall, nor (as hitherto) his government tyrannicall: Let us I pray you search a little further, and see if we can find that wedge of gold, or that Babylonish garment, that throws him into this contempt, and renders him thus odious in the eyes of his too too zealous people (for true Subjects I dare not call them.)

Mee thinkes, I heare some lost wretch say, Religion and Liberty.

Rebellion

Rebellion I must confesse had never but two Engines to put in practice their wicked and facinorous designes ; and these are they which *Machiavillian*-like, [under the shadow of feares and jealousies draws the giddy-headed multitude unto them, to their owne confusion ; for it hath alwayes been a rule in reason, a tryall in experience, and an authority confirmed by the best, that Rebellion produceth horrible effects : for men that are weak in wisdom, violent in will, weary of quiet, and desirous of change, are easily made servicable to every aspiring mind.

But let us see in which of them, or of the breach of which of them, his Majesty may be found guilty of.

1. Liberty.

And first for Liberty : whose sheep or Oxen hath he injuriously taken away ? whole Vineyard, or possessions hath hee wrongfully detayned ? whose wife or daughter hath he ravished or deflowered ? or whom hath he wittingly or willingly put to death ? Nay, hath not (in a manner) the very sword of Iustice been snatched from him, and he enforced perforce to yeeld to that, (which upon my very soule) his owne heart now lamenteth for.

Hath he any wayes infringed your *Magna Charta* ? Hath hee trampled upon your Fundamentall Lawes or customes ? Hath he removed your Land-marks, or demolished your buildings ? Is not your *Moen & Turris* in your goods, your Lands, and your estates, your owne to dispose of to whom you will, to sell to whom you will, or consume how you will ? hath he altered or done any of these things ? or is he about to alter, or doe any of them ? if not, what makes these mutinies ? what these aspersions ? and what these inhumane dissentions ?

Oh, but we feare invasion and a forraign enemy : Be ashamed, & yee of little wit, and feare not such umbragious shadows, which have hitherto cast you into a Lethargy of dulnesse, and stupidity. Open your eyes, and doe but consider (if such a thing should be) who should sustain the greatest losse, his Majesty or you.

His Majesty a free borne Prince, and Monarchy, to which nothing can be added more.

Your selves, subjects ; and if invaded and conquered, could be but subjects still.

His Majesty, a King hereditarily, possessing three Kingdoms, should

should, for I know not what, and I know not to whom, subjugate himselfe, ruine his posterity, and lose his Kingdomes, which if once lost were never to be regained, nor he, nor his posteritie, ever to be established, but utterly destroyed, and confounded.

You, as Subjects, if such a thing should be, for I hold it worthy of an if (because I hold it ridiculous) what lose you, a poore private estate, which otherwise may soon be lost, and as soon recovered.

He is our King, and borne to command; we are his Subjects, and bound to obey; would we not then think it meere folly, and madnesse in him to disinvest, and utterly throw away from him and his posterity, this Royall Sovereignty, and willingly yeeld to base servility, I think we should, as if the greatest Princes in the world should envy the estate of some poore deformed Pilgrim.

Oh, but here lyes the Riddle, here lyeth *Anguis in herba* and this is the Ivy knot for which I want a Mawle to penetrate and break in sunder: But sure it is a bone the Devill hath cast in among you to gnaw upon, which I hope God in his good time will break in sunder, or else break his jawes that first threw it in.

For take away Sovereigne authority and government, and then shall ambition strike free home; Pride shall disdain obedience, malice proceed to murder, theft deprive true possessors, idlenesse neglect labour, impiety scorn Religion, raging Tumult violate peace, and turne a happy state into miserable confusion; whereupon ensueth, that open Rebellion is often raysed, Virgins deflowred, holy places polluted, houses burned, Cities defaced, Lawes despised, the whole earth confounded, and the power of God, and Majesty of Kings, either little regarded, or utterly forgotten: And thus much for your liberty,

Religion.

I come now to Religion, hath he not commanded that all the Lawes and Statutes made against Recusants should severely bee put in execution? runnes not the current of the Law
 E free?

free? hath he not willed, and doth he not will, that the true Protestant Religion established and practised in Queen *Elizabeths* time of famous memory, should be maintained and professed? Nay, hath he not sworn, as he is a King, and as he hopes for mercy or favour to be shewn either to him or his from God, (a greater asseveration, and from a greater person, I think cannot be) never to receive any, if he doth not really maintain, and seriously profess the true Protestant Religion, formerly established; and shall we then doubt? no, God forbid; for seeing in Conscience we are bound to believe an oath taken by a means and ordinary subject, how much more are we bound to believe it coming from so great and good a King?

I cannot dive into the secret thoughts of man, his heart being open unto none: But to the all-seeing eye of God: yet for me to believe otherwise, I should altogether condemne my selfe of Barbarisme; and in some manner of Atheisme; howsoever I know you have read both his many and often Protestations made in this matter. To the which I refer you seriously to consider, and Christian-like to construe, for your further and better satisfaction; and leave the event to him who farre better knoweth when and where to give, than we know how, or what to aske.

And be not like to those greedy Fowles, that would have eaten up the Sacrifice of *Abraham*, before it could be offered with due solemnity unto God; Nor to that cruel murtherer in Egypt, that went about to stifle infants in their birth: Nor like to that envious Sanballat, which suggested slanderous suspicions against the builders of the Temple, before the Scaffolds were set up. But stay your time, firmly believe, and God will give a remedy if there be a fault: and do not nuzzell up your selves in that horrid and hellish Doctrine, That it is lawfull for a Subject (either in poynt of Liberty or Religion) to take up Armes against their lawfull and anoynted Sovereigne: for let me tell you, (and that truly) that it is but a very deceitfull, and meer Jesuiticall position, it being neither justifiable by the Law of God, tolerable by the Law of Nations, nor yet commendable by the Law of Nature; for Nature should abhorre it, all nations (excepting Rebels) doe detest it, and the very word of God it self doth utterly forbid it, and condemne it: And thus much for our Religion.

And

And now having finished what my intentions were, and finding that neither Taxations, Proceedings, Government, Liberty, or Religion can be, or are the true grounds (although sinisterly imagined) of these growing evils, these distractions, feares, and jealousies, what shall I say, nay what may be sayd? *Nam quo me vertam nescio*: Be amazed therefore yee ô heavens, and startle ô yee earth, to think, that *Cassius*, yea, and *Brutus* should stab *Caesar* too: Wherefore, as the Prophet *Jeremiah* saith, so I conclude; *O that my head were a fountaine of water, and mine eyes a river of teares, that I might weep day and night for the sins of this people*; and to send a period to these evils.

F I N I S.